

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of alerting a client of a state change at a remote server, the method comprising:
2 creating a user profile indicating a preference to receive at least one alert
3 corresponding to a change in state at the remote server;
4 connecting to a communications system including the remote server;
5 generating an address for the remote server from the user profile;
6 navigating to the address of the remote server;
7 retrieving data corresponding to a particular type of alert from the remote server; and
8 using the retrieved data in delivering an alert to the client.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system comprises an instant
2 messaging system.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the address comprises a uniform resource locator.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein navigating to the address includes using a browser
2 embedded in an instant messaging client.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the browser comprises a HTTP engine.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising using a graphical user interface to create the
2 user profile.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the user profile on a host.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote mail server.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote weather
2 server.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote stock
2 server.

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